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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,733	02/14/2001	Dana Stephen Smith	8371-121/SLA0352	2665

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Substance of Interview

Examiner and Applicant's representatives discussed possible amendments to the independent claims. One approach suggested by Applicant's representatives was the feature of the invention in which the transform curve is automatically selected such that the color channel is not clipped upon the performance of the transformation. A second approach suggested by Applicant's representatives was the specific features of the sigmoidally-shaped transform curve, namely sharing a common midpoint and not being collinear for more than half of their curve lengths. Examiner stated that he did not believe the features relating to the first approach were taught by either Taguchi (USPN 5,937,232) or Hirota (USPN 5,973,802)), but further consideration of the references was needed. Examiner also stated that he does not believe Gilman (USPN 5,913,014), which is relied upon in the office action to teach specific features of the transform curve, teaches the features set forth in the second approach. For both the first and second approach, however, Examiner stated that further search of the prior art would be required to properly ascertain if the proposed amendments to the claims are taught by the prior art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



10 August 2006

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Technology Division 2625